notice of the international community, including member countries of the OIC, facts regarding Pakistan's support to terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India. There is a greater appreciation in the international community of Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere in India.

Recognition of India as a Nuclear Power

2968. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the John Hollmer adviser on nuclear proliferation to US President has outlined a two step plan to strip India of its nuclear weapon capability and opposed any recognition of India as a nuclear power under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports to this effect quoting the US official. Such statements are completely unrealistic and untenable. US is fully aware that India is a State possessing nuclear weapons and committed to maintaining a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. After the May 1998 nuclear tests, the Prime Minister declared "India is a nuclear weapon State. This is a reality that cannot be denied. It is not a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant."

Prime Minister's visit to Mauritius

2969. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister had visited Mauritius in recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the visit with its objectives alongwith the names of persons who accompanied the Prime Minister;

(c) whether some agreements on different fields have been signed between the two countries during his visit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes Sir.